| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-0660  Responded to: 15 March 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**How many notifications has Police Scotland received of sex offenders changing their name in 2022-23 and from 2023 until the present date?**

Protecting the public is a top priority for Police Scotland.  In Scotland, Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) provides a comprehensive response to a complex issue, using professional assessment and management to properly target resources at those who pose a risk to the public.  Police Scotland works in partnership with a number of agencies through MAPPA to ensure that all Registered Sex Offenders are robustly managed within the community.  While we can never eliminate risk entirely, we want to reassure communities that all reasonable steps are being taken to protect them.

An individual who has received a conviction or finding in respect of a specified offence under Schedule 3 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 is automatically subject to the Notification Requirements of Part 2 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003.

The Violent & Sex Offender Register (ViSOR) is the UK database used to record information concerning the management of Registered Sex Offenders (RSO), including information obtained from their notification requirements.  One of these notification requirements is in respect of the offenders name, it should be noted this requirement not only applies to the individuals name but can be other names used by the offender and include usernames, email addresses etc.

The number of notifications received and recorded on ViSOR in respect of notifications concerning an offenders name are;

Between 01/01/2022-31/12/2022 there were a total of 181 notifications.

Between 01/01/2023-07/03/2024 there were a total of 283 notifications.

To provide a further breakdown of the specific nature of each notification would require the interrogation of each individual record. Unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request. I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) of the Act - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

If you require any further assistance, please contact us quoting the reference above.

You can request a review of this response within the next 40 working days by [email](mailto:foi@scotland.police.uk) or by letter (Information Management - FOI, Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH). Requests must include the reason for your dissatisfaction.

If you remain dissatisfied following our review response, you can appeal to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner (OSIC) within 6 months - [online](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) or by letter (OSIC, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, KY16 9DS).

Following an OSIC appeal, you can appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

This response will be added to our [Disclosure Log](http://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log) in seven days' time.

Every effort has been taken to ensure our response is as accessible as possible. If you require this response to be provided in an alternative format, please let us know.